WILLIAMSON VENEER COMPANY B- 1101 BALTIMORE CITY, MD. c.1900, private

SIGNIFICANCE

The classic brick industrial building at Baltimore and Haven Street in Highlandtown was the earliest Baltimore location of the Williamson Veneer Company, a major manufacturer of mahagony veneer to Baltimore's many furniture and piano factories at the turn of the century.

MA DETER

ARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST	NR Eligible:	yes		
MINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM		no	Х	

Property Name: Williamson Veneer Company	Inventory Number: B-1101
Address: 1 and 5 S. Haven Street 1 N. Haven St.	Historic district: yes X no
City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21224	County: Baltimore City
USGS Quadrangle(s): Baltimore East	
Property Owner: Highlandtown Warehouse, LLC	Tax Account ID Number: 26186264A005
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): Tax Map Numb	per: 26
Project: Red Line Transit Study - Bayview Extension Agence	y: MTA
Agency Prepared By: John Milner Associates, Inc.	
Preparer's Name: Katherine Farnham	Date Prepared: 4/15/2011
Documentation is presented in See sources below.	
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation Eligibility recommended	X Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A	B C D E F G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resour	ce to a NR district/propert
Name of the District/Property:	
Inventory Number: Eligible: ye	s Listed: yes
Site visit by MHT Staff yes X no Name:	Date:
Description of Property and Justification: (Please attach map and photo)	
The Williamson Veneer Company is a trio of connected red-brick industrial build home of the Williamson Veneer Co., which operated at this site from 1900 to 19. While initially the cluster had a single address, today there are three separate strebuildings. The addresses, proceeding from north to south, are 1 N. Haven St., 1 S. documented in a 1983 survey by the Baltimore Museum of Industry, but no determined in the control of the control	35. The third building postdates this occupation. eet addresses corresponding to the three S. Haven St., and 5 S. Haven St. The plant was mination of eligibility was located.
1 N. Haven St., constructed ca. 1903, is a two-story red-brick factory building. It concealed behind flat parapets with terra cotta caps. The gable ends have a stepp symmetrical bays divided by pilasters. Two bays contain a single window and the Windows are tall with segmental arched tops, and were originally multilight dou near the center of the first floor. Most of the window spaces have been filled in w replacement six-over-six double-hung windows with fixed transoms. There is one facade. A modern one-story storefront area with two fixed windows and paired st facade. The north end of the building has six-over-six windows on the second flo	ed profile. Its facade is arranged with 14 e remaining 12 contain two windows each. ble-hung wood sash. One such window survives with brick, and remaining window openings have the loading dock toward the south end of the seel doors is installed near the center of the
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended	
Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A	B C D E F G
MHT Comments:	
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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
12 custy	6 19 12
Reviewer, National Register Program	Date

brick elevator shaft. Across the north end of the building is a one-story railroad shipping dock, which is essentially a large covered platform. This structure is frame with a raised concrete foundation, a flat roof and a concave curve along a former siding. The shipping dock is clad in corrugated metal and its window openings, set at the tops of the walls, are covered with plywood. One paneled wood garage door survives at the front of the platform, and a loading bay toward the rear. The trackbed is now a gravel driveway. 1 N. Haven currently houses a woodworking shop, a laboratory parts supplier, and a children's furnishings outlet.

The south side of the two-story mill adjoins a one-story front-gabled brick building at 1 S. Haven St. This building, constructed ca. 1900-1901, has an oblong massing and an elaborate stepped front parapet. It has a symmetrical nine-bay common-bond brick facade with brick pilasters and corbelling along the top. The pilasters are also present on its south side wall. The building originally had nine segmental-arched openings on the first floor of its primary facade, and two window openings within the gable peak. All of these openings have been infilled with brick, and the lower parts of the facade exhibit extensive repointing and repair overall. A modern entrance with paired steel doors is inserted on the right side. On the exposed south side wall, four bays are visible. Two extant window openings are boarded over, and other openings have been infilled with brick. The rear of the building is not accessible. Aerial views indicate four monitor skylights along the gable peak of the roof. The current use of this building is unclear.

5 S. Haven St., connected to the other buildings on the south, is a newer one-story industrial building with a squarish footprint and was constructed ca. 1940. It has a flat roof and a narrow exhaust chimney at the southwest corner. It is set on a slope and faces west toward the street. The south section of the building is flush with the sidewalk, and the north portion, located between this section and 1 S. Haven, is recessed from the street and contains a three-bay loading dock with a flat-roofed overhang. The primary facade of the south section is six bays wide with asymmetrical openings. The entrance consists of paired one-light doors with a closed transom area and shallow corrugated-metal-edged overhang. To the left of the entrance is a small, three-light steel window, and to the right are four large window bays infilled with brick. The north wall of the south section is four bays deep with intact original multilight steel windows, and the south wall is eight bays deep with all openings infilled with brick. The south side and the rear of the building are not accessible. The building appears to be used as a warehouse.

The Williamson Veneer Company moved to Baltimore from Indianapolis in 1899, purchasing a two-acre tract at Baltimore and Eighth (now Haven) streets. Owner D.W. Williamson cited Baltimore's shipping facilities as the reason for the relocation. A brick and frame building was under construction by May 1899, and the factory expected to be operational by August.

The new facility was documented on the 1902 Sanborn map of the neighborhood. The property included its own sawmill, outside vats, and a Union (Northern Central) Railroad siding at the rear, parallel to the railroad line. A log yard stood across the street. The Sanborn map indicates that 1 S. Haven St. was present by 1902, and a 3-story warehouse stood a short distance to the north. This warehouse occupies the current location of 1 N. Haven St. but appears shorter in length and does not directly adjoin 1 S. Haven St. as it does at present. It also had three stories, with storage on the first floor and drying rooms on the top two floors, in contrast to the two-story height of the present 1 N. Haven St.

Possibly this discrepancy reflects the fact that the plant was under construction at the time of the fire insurance survey, and the building may not be depicted accurately. Notations such as "to be office and shipping" and that the plant's sawmill was "being built" suggests that the plant was not finished when surveys were made for this map. However, according to newspaper reports, a fire broke out at the complex on July 4, 1904, and accounts described the factory as "destroyed." Rebuilding began in September of that year. This fact would explain the discrepancies between the building as it exists today and the Sanborn fire insurance survey conducted in 1902. It is most likely that the two buildings were rebuilt in 1904, and these are the buildings that occupy

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the present site.

1 N. Haven St. was used as the warehouse at the Williamson Veneer Company. Between 1914 and 1936, a curved railroad platform annex was built on the north end of the building for a new siding. It housed a warehouse and shipping center. Williamson Veneer relocated its operations in 1935, and by 1953, the building had become home to the Kaylon pajama factory. The two railroad sidings serving the complex were intact at that time. The shipping warehouse at the north end of the building and sheds at the rear were used for case and bottle storage.

The 1902, 1914, and 1936 Sanborn maps indicate that 1 S. Haven St. was the veneer mill building for Williamson Veneer, where processing took place. After Williamson left, subsequent owners expanded the facility with a new building to the south. The building at 5 S. Haven St. was constructed ca. 1940 on land that was formerly a log yard and sawmill for the veneer company. An office area was located in the southernmost section of 5 S. Haven St., immediately behind the entrance.

The 1951 and 1953 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps indicate that 1 and 5 S. Haven St. were collectively used at that time as a warehouse for Crown Cork & Steel (CC&S), but it is not clear which materials or products were stored at this satellite location. CC&S company literature makes no reference to this location.

The Williamson Veneer Company was one of the first buildings constructed in a growing Highlandtown industrial area along the Northern Central Line of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Nearby businesses as of 1902 included the Conowingo Wallpaper Company, across the rail line to the east; Monumental Brewing Company at Lombard and Fifth (now Eaton) streets; and the Carstairs Bros. Distillery at Bank and Fifth streets. By 1914, the Savarese Macaroni Company occupied the former Conowingo site, and new buildings nearby housed the United Railways and Electric Co., the Faunt Le Roy Elevator Co., and the Crown Oil and Wax Co.

During World War I, the Williamson Veneer facilities were converted for the manufacture of walnut gun stocks, eventually producing 100,000 gun stocks at a rate of up to 2,500 per day. By June 1918, two additional buildings had been constructed for the production and storage of gun stocks, each 80 by 120 feet. The original location and orientation of the buildings are unknown, and no buildings of this size are now present on the site.

Williamson Veneer moved to a new facility in Cockeysville in 1935, where the company continued operating until 1972 when the mill was sold. At the time of Williamson Veneer's departure, the original Haven Street location had become heavily industrialized with a diverse mix of businesses and in 1936 included such companies as Shell Eastern Petroleum Products, Frankfort Distillers, the Pompeian Olive Oil Co., the Atlantic Wiping Cloth Co., and Leonhardt Wagon Manufacturing. Also present was an auto showroom and a barrel, heading, and keg shop.

At Haven Street, the company primarily manufactured mahogany veneer. Typical uses for the Williamson veneer included pianos, phonograph cabinets, and other furniture. Woodworking in Baltimore had reached its peak during the Federal Period, between 1780 and 1820. Furniture produced in Baltimore during that time became well-known for its elegance and simplicity. Painted furniture was characteristic of the city's craftsmen, as was a carved bellflower motif. Typically constructed of solid mahogany, Federal furniture used veneer only for ornamentation.

By the time the Williamson Veneer Company arrived at the end of the nineteenth century, a combination of larger furniture establishments, increasing competition from the North and Midwest, and the growing popularity of eclecticism had greatly reduced the number of furniture manufacturers operating in Baltimore. New furniture sources, particularly department stores,

MARYLAN Eligibility r			TRUST		EW gibility not recommen	ded						
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increased availability and lowered the cost of furniture from outside the city. Veneers produced at the plant were commonly sent to plywood manufacturers and used as finishes on quality furniture.

The Williamson Veneer Company buildings and later annex are examples of early-to-mid-twentieth century manufacturing buildings, and show the transition from the multistory brick mills of the nineteenth century to the nondescript one-story concrete and brick veneer buildings of the mid twentieth century. The two oldest buildings, 1 N. Haven St. and 1 S. Haven St., were built by and are associated with the Williamson Veneer Company during its 35-year tenure in Highlandtown.1 N. Haven St. is an example of a multistory brick warehouse typical of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Such buildings were common in Baltimore and elsewhere. 1 S. Haven St. has an ornate facade and front-gabled roofline, which are also typical of its turn-of-the-century era. Its gabled, high-ceilinged interior, lit by many front windows and skylights, was a spacious facility for manufacturing. By the mid twentieth century, manufacturing abandoned gabled and multistory industrial buildings in favor of flat-roofed single-level plants with assembly-line systems. 5 S. Haven St., constructed ca. 1940, is an example of the minimalist one-story, flat-roofed plants and warehouses of this period.

Although the buildings still look like products of their time, extensive alterations, including replacement or infill of most of the windows on 1 N. Haven St., and infill of most original window and door openings on the 1 S. Haven St. section, have eroded their historic integrity. The surviving window openings on 1 N. Haven St. have incompatible modern replacement sash. Numerous multilight sash windows are an important character-defining feature of turn-of-the-century manufacturing buildings, and the universal changes to the fenestration on these two buildings are historically inappropriate. 5 S. Haven St., a later addition to the property, is an example of a generic post-1930s modernist warehouse building. It has no distinctive detail and it has also lost integrity due to infilled window openings. The property's overall setting is still generally industrial. However, the setting has changed due to the abandonment of adjacent railroad sidings and demolition or cessation of nearby industrial concerns. Overall, the complex retains integrity of location, but it has lost at least some of its integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. As such, it does not fully embody its construction period.

The Williamson Veneer Company was evaluated under the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria A, B, and C using the guidelines set forth in the NRHP Bulletin How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation.

The property's primary association is with the Williamson Veneer Company, and two of the three buildings were constructed expressly for this business. However, the company's work did not make a significant contribution to important historical events, technologies, or patterns. Evidence has not been found to suggest the company was part of a larger collection of woodworking facilities in the area. The surrounding properties housed a range of business types between the arrival of Williamson Veneer in 1899 and its departure in 1935. Similarly, the company is not associated with a broader tradition of furniture-making or other woodcraft in Baltimore City. Therefore the Williamson Veneer Company is not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A. The property is not known to be associated with significant people of the past, and does not meet the requirements of NRHP Criterion B. The loss of historic integrity prevents the mill complex from being a strong example of a turn-of-the-century manufacturing plant, and it does not meet the requirements of NRHP Criterion C. This property was not evaluated for eligibility under NRHP Criterion D during the historic architecture survey. Due to lack of significance and integrity, the Williamson Veneer Company is recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Sources:

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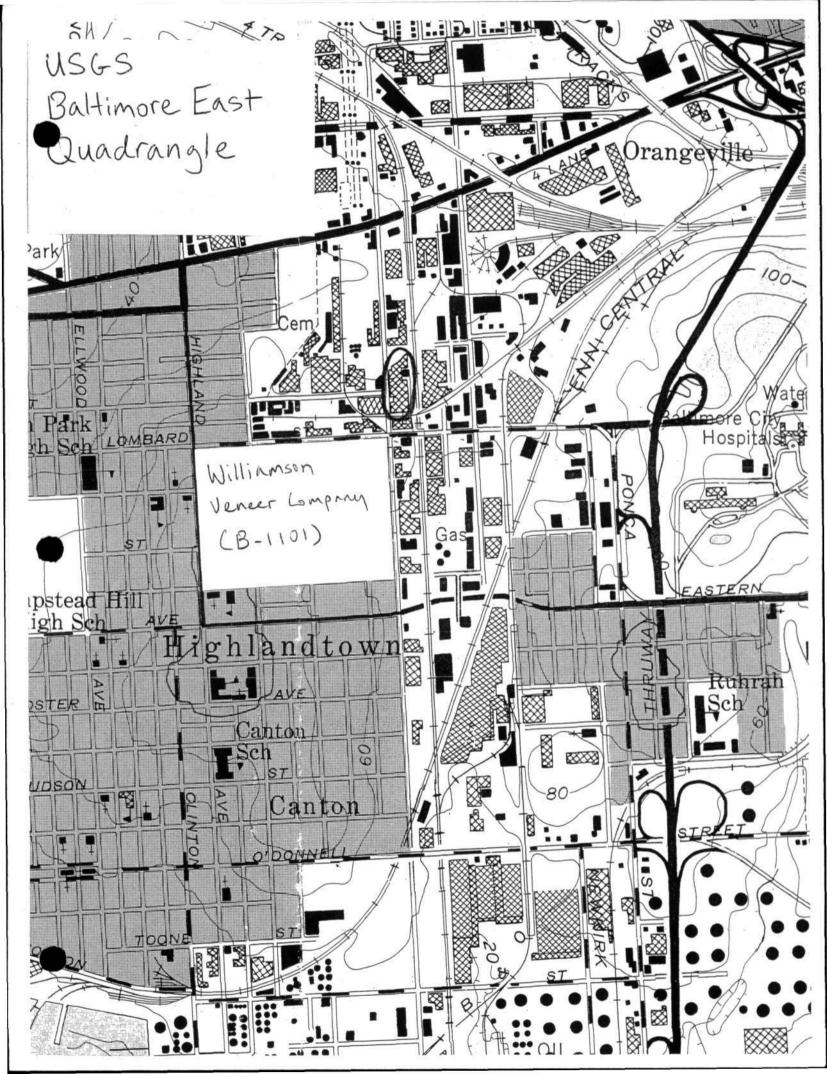
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B-1101 Williamson Veneur Co. Baltimore City, MD K. Farnham 10/2009 MD SHPD View of north a unst founds of I N. Haven St, view to SE A1 of 6



B-1101 Williamson Veneer Co. Bultimere City, MP K. Famham 10/2009 MP SHPJ View of north and al endosed platform of IN. Haven St. looking E. # 2 of 6



B-1101 Williamson Veneer Co. Ballimore City, MP K. Farnham 10/2009 MP SHPO 1 S. Haven St., New of west frank looking SE #3 of 6



B-1101 Williamson Veneer Co. Baltimore City, MD K. Farnham 10/2009 MP SHPO View of 1 S. Harry St. (left) at 5 S. Harry St. (right) to SE # Ll of 6



B-1101 Williamson Venur Co. Baltimore City, MD K. Farnham 10/2009 MV SHPO View of I N. Haven St. (Far left), IS. Haven St. (center) al 5 S. Harr St. (right), Looking NE. #5 of 6



8-1101 Williamson Venur Co. Baltimore City, MD K. Farnham 10/2009 MP SHPO South wall of 5 S. Haven St, looking NE # 6 0 6

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. B-1101
Magi No. 0411015714
DOE __yes __no

1. Nam	e (indicate pr	eferred name)				
historic Wil	liamson Veneer Com	pany				
and/or common						
2. Loca	ition					
street & number	Baltimore and	Haven Streets			not for publ	ication
city, town B	altimore	vicinity of	congressional d	istrict		
state Maryland		county				
3. Clas	sification					
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considerednot_applicable	Status occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercie education entertainm governme industrial military	al al nent	museun park private religiou scientif transpo other:	residence s ic
4. Own	er of Prope	rty (give names an	nd mailing add	lresses	of <u>all</u> ow	ners)
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7. Description

Survey No. B-1101

NUMBER OF STREET

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fair	unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Williamson Veneer buildings illustrate the turn of the century trend toward lower manufacturing plants with large floor area. Improved lighting and machines individually powered by electric motors freed designers of industrial structures from the confines of multi-story forms. This was important in a business like veneer manufacture, where handling heavy hardwood logs between floors would be difficult.

The structures at Williamson are of about the same era. The two-story brick building, twenty-six bays long, was probably the warehouse for the finished product. Its floor and roof systems are carried on simple timber posts and beams and no attempt was made to create large clear-span areas. Two one-story brick structures lie east of the warehouse along the railroad tracks. The southernmost of these probably housed the boiling vats where the logs were soaked before peeling. The northern one was the veneer mill where rotary 'peeling' saws cut the logs into paper-thin sheets. North of the mill was a large timber shed, sheathed in wood, that served as a storage and shipping area. The north side of this structure is curved to conform to the line of the railroad tracks.

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8. Significance

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Level of Significance: national state local

The classic brick industrial building at Baltimore and Haven Streets in Highlandtown was the earliest Baltimore location of the Williamson Veneer Comapny, a major manufacturer of mahogany veneer to Baltimore's many furniture and piano factories at the turn of the century.

The Williamson Veneer Company, one of the country's oldest continuing veneer works, occupied the classic industrial building at this Highlandtown site between 1900 and 1935. The firm was founded in 1850 by Marshall Dwight Williamson in Indianapolis. In 1900 the business was moved to Baltimore, and the Haven Street building was probably contructed at that time to house the firm's operations. Baltimore was a natural location for a veneer works because it was a center of the wood-working industry. Lumber was shipped to a number of lumberyards in Fells Point, South Baltimore, and other parts of the city, as well as to furniture, piano, and other wood products firms. Williamson thus found a ready supply route for raw lumber and a booming market for veneers. Williamson specialized in a fine line of African mahogany veneer products. In 1935, the founder's grandsons decided to open their own separate firms, and the company moved to larger quarters in Cockeysville, Maryland, where it continued manufacturing wood veneers until 1981.

During its heyday, Williamson was one of the largest manufacturers of veneers in the country. They had one of the largest and best band mills, and in 1930 operated the largest drum saw in the East. The veneer they produced was used in the manufacture of fine lines of pianos, furniture, and radios, among other products.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-1101

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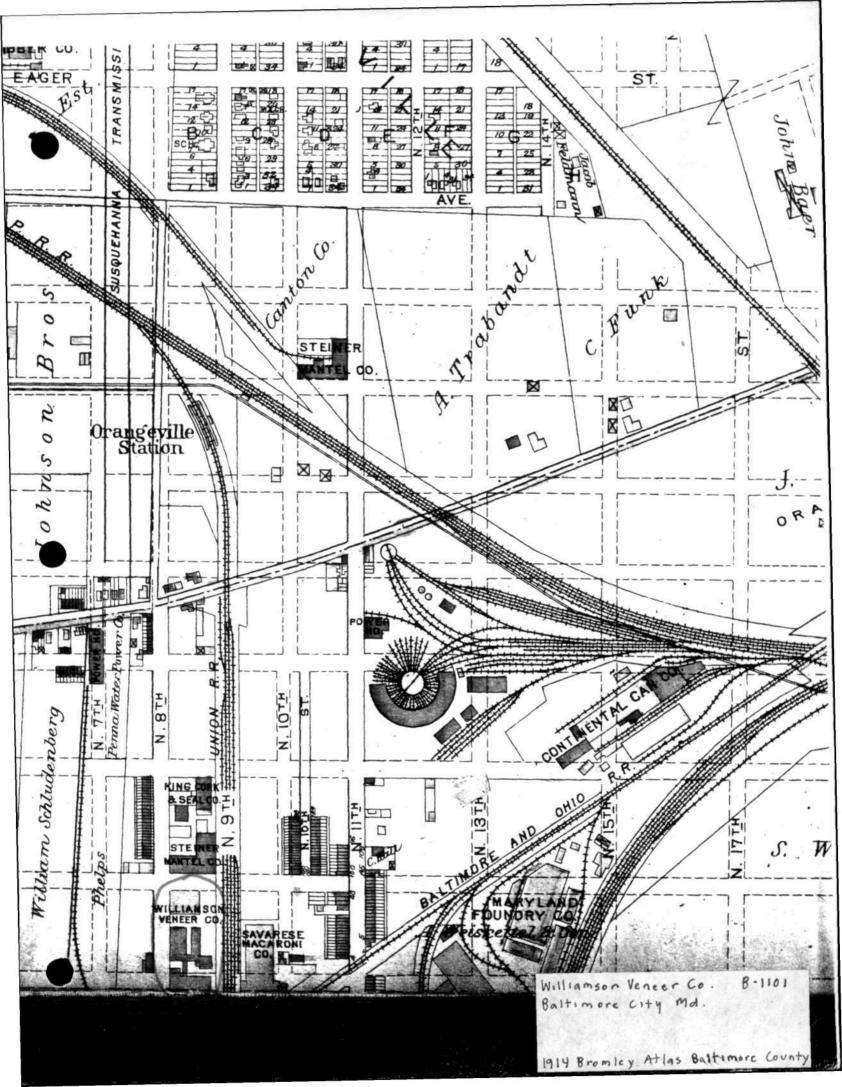
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust Shaw House 21 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (301) 269-2438

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Williamson Veneer Co 8-1101
Baltimore City Md.
Peter Liebhold 9/83
LOOKING N. E. AT MIDDLE BLOG.



Williamson Vencer co B-1101
Baltimore City Md
Yeter Liebhold 9/83
LOOKING EAST AT SOUTH DLOG